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ing held on the afternoon and evening of October 24. The afternoon program was as follows:

A brief survey of the historical development of optical science: PROFESSOR J. P. C. SOUTHALL.

Helmholtz's early work in physics—the conservation of energy: PROFESSOR HENRY CREW.

Helmholtz's contributions to physiological optics: L. T. TROLAND.

Professor Crew exhibited lantern slides showing Helmholtz at the time he wrote the essay on the Conservation of Energy (age 26) and also at later periods of his life.

At the evening session, Professor M. I. Pupin spoke informally and in a most interesting and delightful manner on his Personal Recollections of Helmholtz. Professor E. L. Nichols, Professor Ernest Merritt, Dr. Ludwik Silberstein, Mrs. Christine Ladd-Franklin and Professor C. R. Mann also spoke of their memories of Helmholtz as a teacher. Professor Mann showed a lantern slide of a photograph which he himself made on July 7, 1894, showing Helmholtz at his lecture desk only a few days before his last illness.

At the regular sessions of the society some twenty papers were presented, special attention being given to physiological optics. A committee was appointed, the duty of which is: (1) To prepare the program of the sessions on vision; (2) to coordinate the work of the society in this field with the work of other societies and (3) to recommend, from time to time, such further steps as may be deemed effective in encouraging research in physiological optics and allied problems.

Rochester is the world's chief center for the manufacture of optical and photographic apparatus. Visits were arranged to go through the research laboratories of the Eastman Kodak Company and the glass plant, optical shops and observatory of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company. The research work of these laboratories is of great magnitude and even in contributions to pure science may soon rival the chemical and physical laboratories of any university.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Alexander M. Gray, professor of electrical engineering in Cornell University; of Seymour C. Loomis, formerly secretary of the section of social and economic sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; of Dr. Emil A. Budde, German electrical engineer; of Emile Houzé, professor of anthropology at the University of Brussels and at the Ecole d'Anthropologie of that city; and of Sir William Edward Garforth, pioneer worker for safety in coal mines.

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, formerly of the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, has been appointed director of the Harvard College Observatory in succession to the late Edward C. Pickering.

PROFESSOR GEORGE C. COMSTOCK, who has been director of the Washburn Observatory at the University of Wisconsin since 1889, will retire at the end of this year. His place will be taken by Dr. Joel Stebbins, formerly of the University of Illinois department of astronomy and director of its observatory since 1913.